

PROJECTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRANSITION FROM HOMELESSNESS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCE PAGE
VETERANS



PATH

Projects for Assistance in
Transition from Homelessness

Acknowledgments

This PATH Resource Page is a technical assistance document of the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Technical Assistance Center. It was developed by Rachael Kenney, MA and Katrina Crotts of the Institute on Homelessness and Trauma. Sarah Paige Fuller, MSW, Jeffrey Olivet, MA, Gloria Dickerson, and Ellen Bassuk, MD provided review and guidance. Jonathan Metz provided the layout, design, and creative direction. Thanks also to the government project officers at the SAMHSA, CMHS, Homeless Programs Branch for direction and oversight.

Disclaimer

This document was developed by the Institute on Homelessness and Trauma, LLC under Contract No. HHSS280200600029C from the Homeless Programs Branch, Division of Services & Systems Improvement, Center For Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS.

Public Domain Notice

All material appearing in this report is in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without permission. However, citation of the source is appreciated. No fee may be charged for the reproduction or distribution of this material.

Recommended Citation

PATH Technical Assistance Center (2008). *PATH technical assistance resource page: Veterans*. Newton Centre, MA: PATH Technical Assistance Center.

Available: <http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov>

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov>

Contact: path@samhsa.hhs.gov

INTRODUCTION



JEFF QUINCY

According to the 2005 American Community Survey, approximately 23.4 million people are veterans of the U.S. military. Of the 23.4 million, approximately one-third served during the Vietnam era, less than 20% are Gulf War veterans, and around 30% are veterans of the Korean War and World War II. Veterans make up only 34% of the general adult male population however, 40% of men who experience homelessness are veterans. Since September 11th, the number of individuals providing active duty service has increased significantly. With this increase comes concern that there will be a surge of veterans experiencing homelessness in the upcoming future as a result of the activities in Iraq and Afghanistan, making it necessary to recognize the importance of preventing homelessness for future veterans. (Cunningham, Henry, & Lyons, 2007)

According to research, the needs of veterans who experience homelessness often are not different from the needs of other persons experiencing homelessness and there are many systems and services in place that can provide assistance (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2007). However, there are services and resources specifically available to veterans. Some aspects of these resources are complicated and limited to certain groups of veterans or based on certain eligibility factors. This document provides a tool to assist in accessing and understanding these resources.

Listed below are six of the major categories for services and resources for veterans and veterans experiencing homelessness.

- [Locating Service Providers](#)
- [Benefits](#)
 - [General Benefit Information](#)
 - [Health Care](#)
 - [Life Insurance](#)
 - [Education](#)
 - [Compensation and Pension](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Personal Records](#)
- [Posttraumatic Stress Disorder](#)
- [Recent Legislation](#)

A general overview of resources and documents related to veterans experiencing homelessness is provided on the following pages, followed by sections on these key areas.

Important Websites

- **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

This is the official Department of Veterans Affairs website. There is a specific section of the VA website that is set aside for [homeless veterans](#). Most of the resources on the homeless specific page are highlighted on this resource page.

Direct Link: <http://www.va.gov>

Direct Link to Homeless Veterans Section: <http://www1.va.gov/homeless>

- **HUDVET-Veteran Resource Center**

This website, compiled by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, has phone numbers and contact information regarding veterans' benefits. It has both [local](#) and [national](#) information.

Direct Link: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet/index.cfm>

Direct Link to Local Information:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet/state/index.cfm>

Direct Link to National Information:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet/national/index.cfm>

- **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV)**

This organization focuses specifically on veterans who experience homelessness. Several resources from their website are cited in this document. The Coalition's [getting started guide](#) is a great source to help veterans who experience homelessness begin to think about their goals and needs.

Direct Link: <http://www.nchv.org>

Direct Link to the Getting Started Guide: <http://www.nchv.org/gettingstarted.cfm>

- **SAMHSA Webpage for Returning Veterans**

SAMHSA's returning vets website has resources for locating services and materials for service providers who work with returning veterans.

Direct Link: <http://www.samhsa.gov/vets>

- **Locate a Homeless Veterans Service Coordinator**

Homeless veterans coordinators have information about services and referrals available from the Veterans Health Administration. Services and referrals include outreach, case management, benefits counseling, health care, and housing assistance. Because each facility is different it is important to contact a counselor specific to the facility, and this link has a listing of coordinators by state.

Direct Link: http://www1.va.gov/homeless/docs/HCHV_Sites_ByState.pdf

- **NCHV - Support for Service Providers**

This website guides service providers to the resources, agencies, and people who can help develop and improve programs, find additional funding sources, and provide management tools for organizations.

Direct Link: <http://www.nchv.org/service.cfm>

Other Resources

- **Cunningham, M., Henry, M., & Lyons, W. (2007). *Vital mission: Ending homelessness among veterans*. Washington, DC: The Homelessness Research Institute at the National Alliance to End Homelessness.**

This report, developed by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, contains facts and information concerning veterans who experience homelessness. It discusses the different percentages of veterans who experience homelessness in each state as well as ways to approach the reduction of homelessness for veterans.

Direct Link: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/1837>

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=32854>

- **National Alliance to End Homelessness. (2006). *Fact checker: Veterans and homelessness*. Washington, DC: Author.**

This fact sheet examines the questions, programs, and policies in place concerning veterans who experience homelessness.

Direct Link:

http://www.endhomelessness.org/files/1401_file_10625_NAEH_VetsHomeless_4_.pdf

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=32855>

- **National Coalition for the Homeless. (2007). *Homeless veterans: NCH fact sheet #14*. Washington, DC: Author.**

This fact sheet examines homelessness among U.S. veterans. A list of resources for further study is also provided.

Direct Link: <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/veterans.pdf>

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33028>

- **U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2008). *Federal benefits for veterans and dependents: 2008 edition*. VA Pamphlet 80-0-01. Washington, DC: Author.**

This comprehensive guide covers all veterans benefits including health care, service-connected disabilities, pensions, education and training, home loans, life insurance, burial and memorial benefits, benefits specific to the National Guard and other special groups, transition assistance, benefits for dependents, appeals of BA claims, military records, and benefits available from other federal agencies. Each benefit area is covered in detail.

Direct Link: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=23684>

LOCATING SERVICE PROVIDERS



Veterans experiencing homelessness may need assistance in connecting to service providers who specifically serve veterans or are from the mainstream system. Approximately one-half of all veterans who experience homelessness have psychiatric disorders and two-thirds suffer from substance use (Cunningham, Henry, & Lyons, 2007). Below are some resources to help locate services, housing, and employment assistance in your area.

Important Websites

- **HUDVET**

This directory of national resources is designed to increase your knowledge of and participation in the wide variety of HUD homeless assistance programs and services for veterans and other individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Direct Link: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet/national/index.cfm>

- **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

The Department of Veterans Affairs website provides resources to help locate the [nearest VA facility](#), find [homeless veteran program coordinators](#) in your area, and identify [stand down events](#) across the country.

Direct Link: <http://www.va.gov>

Direct Link to Nearest VA Facility Search:

<http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=1>

Direct Link to homeless veteran program coordinators:

http://www1.va.gov/homeless/docs/HCHV_Sites_ByState.pdf

Direct Link to Project Stand Down Events: <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=6>

- **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV)**

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans has a city and state search for local community-based organizations that provide services to veterans experiencing homelessness.

Direct Link: <http://www.nchv.org/network.cfm>

- **Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator**

This is a searchable directory provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that allows you to locate treatment facilities around the U.S. for alcohol and drug use problems.

Direct Link: <http://dasis3.samhsa.gov>

- **Mental Health Service Locator**

SAMHSA's mental health service locator provides comprehensive mental health services information by state.

Direct Link: <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/databases/>

- **Help for Homeless Veterans: Where to Go for Help**

This webpage gives a list of different services in areas such as housing, health, and employment for veterans who experience homelessness.

Direct Link: <http://www.nchv.org/wheretogo.cfm>

- **Career One Stop**

While this website's primary focus is career resources, its state search provides information on resources for job searches, education, national guard/reserve, and homeless veterans.

Direct Link: http://maps.servicelocator.org/military/select_state.aspx

Other Resources

- **Kuhn, J.H. & Nakashima, J. (2008). *Community homelessness assessment, local education and networking group (CHALENG) for veterans: The 14th annual progress report*. Washington, DC: United States Department of Veterans Affairs.**

CHALENG is a program designed to enhance the continuum of services for veterans who experience homelessness provided by the local VA medical center and regional office and their surrounding community service agencies. Each year data is collected from a questionnaire completed by VA staff, community providers, and veterans who experience homelessness. This report contains data from the CHALENG program.

Direct Link: http://www.va.gov/homeless/docs/CHALENG_14th_annual_Rpt_7-7-08.pdf

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33030>

BENEFITS



JEFF OLIVER

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the federal agency that provides substantial hands-on assistance directly to people experiencing homelessness. Benefits are available from the VA. According to the website military.com, more than 40,000 veterans who experience homelessness receive compensation or pension benefits annually. A wide array of services and initiatives are available from the VA, including health care, life insurance, education, and compensation. Each of these services is designed to assist veterans who experience homelessness in becoming more independent and self-sufficient.

Important Websites

- **Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)**

This website contains a list of all veterans' benefits in both English and Spanish. Pamphlets and fact sheets are available and there is an additional link where you can apply for benefits online.

Direct Link: <http://www.vba.va.gov>

- **Seeking Federal Benefits**

This page of the NCHV site provides straightforward information on applying for benefits including eligibility, how to find help for applying, and how to apply on your own.

Direct Link: <http://www.nchv.org/seeking.cfm>

- **Military Benefits**

Here you will find a list of benefits and resources for veterans including the GI Bill, health benefits, and others.

Direct Link: <http://www.military.com/benefits>

- **Sources for Veterans: Information, Aid and Benefits**

This webpage provides links to resources and services for different military branches.

Direct Link: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/other-resources/benefits-aid.html>

- **VA Veterans Online Application Website (VONAPP)**

The VONAPP website is an official U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website that enables veterans to apply for benefits online.

Direct Link: <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>

Other Resources

- **Department of Veterans Affairs. (2008). *Federal benefits for veterans and dependents*. Washington, DC: Author.**

This comprehensive guide covers all veterans benefits including health care, service-connected disabilities, pensions, education and training, home loans, life insurance, burial and memorial benefits, benefits specific to the National Guard and other special groups, transition assistance, benefits for dependents, appeals of benefits assistance claims, military records, and benefits available from other federal agencies. Each benefit area is covered in detail.

Direct Link: <http://www.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=23684>

- **Department of Veterans Affairs. (2008). *A summary of VA benefits*. Washington, DC: Author.**

This pamphlet shows VA benefits as of 2008 in a concise outline.

Direct Link: <http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/general/21-00-1.pdf>

Homeless Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33031>

- **VBA Office of Performance Analysis & Integrity. (2007). *VA benefits activity: Veterans deployed to the global war on terrorism*. Washington, DC: Author.**

This report summarizes participation in VA benefits programs by veterans identified by the Department of Defense as having been deployed overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Information is included for the following VA programs: Compensation, Insurance, Home Loan Guaranty, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment.

Direct Link:

http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/files/VFCS/VBA_GWOT_Claims_June_2007.pdf

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33032>

- **National PATH Technical Assistance Center. (2008). *Income and medical coverage resources*. Newton Centre, MA: Author.**

Veterans may also be eligible for benefits from the Social Security Administration. This resource provides information on Income and Medical Resources in general and also includes a section of resources for Veterans.

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33139>

HEALTH CARE

Veterans are eligible for a variety of VA sponsored health care services through insurance programs or through services provided directly by VA hospitals and clinics.

Important Websites

- **Health Care – Veterans Health Administration**

Information about health care benefits, patient services, prescriptions and more are found on this site.

Direct Link: <http://www.va.gov/health/index.asp>

- **My HealtheVet (MHV)**

This site provides information on veteran health benefits and services.

Direct Link: http://www.va.gov/EAUTH/My_HealtheVet.asp

- **Understanding Veteran Health Care**

This webpage gives information about VA health care benefits, eligibility, enrollment requirements, and specialized programs.

Direct Link: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care>

Other Resources

- **McMurray-Avila, M. (2001). *Homeless veterans and health care: A resource guide for providers*. Nashville, TN: National Health Care for the Homeless Council.**

This resource guide brings together current resources and information about the issues of complex health care in a format that is useful for service providers, veterans who experience homelessness, and others concerned about the health and welfare of veterans.

Direct Link: <http://www.nhchc.org/Publications/HomelessVetsHealthCare.pdf>

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=18459>

LIFE INSURANCE

The Department of Veteran Affairs is responsible for ensuring that veterans receive the care and support earned with military service. These life insurance programs developed by the VA were developed to provide insurance benefits to veterans and service members who may not be able to get insurance from private companies because of the extra risks involved in military service or a service connected disability.

Important Websites

- **Veterans Life Insurance**

The webpage is a summary of veteran's life insurance benefits and what you need to know before you apply.

Direct Link: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-life-insurance>

EDUCATION

The GI Bill was first passed in 1944 and provided veterans with both college and vocational education opportunities. On June 30, 2008, President Bush signed the new GI Bill into law. The new bill covers full tuition costs at any public school (or private school equivalent), a living stipend, and a \$1000 stipend a year for books. (GI Bill 2008, 2008)

Important Websites

- **GI Bill Website**

This is the official website for the GI Bill and it contains [forms](#) that can be downloaded and completed. The forms cannot be submitted over the internet.

Direct Link: <http://www.gibill.va.gov>

Direct Link to Forms: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/education_forms.htm

- **GI Bill 2008**

This website contains information about the new GI Bill.

Direct Link: <http://www.gibill2008.org>

- **Education Benefits**

This site contains information on different benefit programs administered by the Education Service Administrators.

Direct Link: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/benefits.htm

- **GI Bill Guide**

Veterans can request a GI Bill guide that has specific information for their branch of the military from this website. The guide aims to help veterans better understand the GI Bill benefit and how they can use it to achieve their goals.

Direct Link: <http://www.gibillexpress.com>

- **Veteran GI Bill User's Guide**

The guide will teach you how to make the most of this education benefit.

Direct Link:

<http://education.military.com/money-for-school/veteran/gi-bill/veteran-gi-bill-users-guide>

Other Resources

- **Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. (2008). *Issue report. A new GI Bill: Rewarding our troops, rebuilding our military.* Washington, DC: Author.**

This report gives information on how the GI Bill has developed as well as information about the need for a new GI Bill.

Direct Link: <http://www.iava.org/documents/ANewGIBill.pdf>

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33033>

COMPENSATION AND PENSION

Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans who have limited or no income and are over the age of 65 or, if under 65, are permanently disabled (VA, 2008). Veterans may qualify for over \$3,000 in monthly benefits if they fit these qualifications (Military.com, 2008).

Important Websites

- **VA Pension Benefits**

This website provides information on the veterans' pension program such as what it is, eligibility, and how to apply.

Direct Link: <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/pension/vetpen.htm>

- **VA Compensation and Pension Payment Rates**

Compensations and pension payment rates are shown in chart form and include current and past information.

Direct Link: <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates/index.htm>

- **Veteran Disability Compensation**

Benefits are paid to veterans who have injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty, or were made worse by active military service. This website has information about eligibility, compensation rates, and the application process.

Direct Link: <http://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/va-disability-compensation>

Other Resources

- **Rosenheck, R., Frisman, L., & Sindelar, J. (1995). Disability compensation and work among veterans with psychiatric and nonpsychiatric impairments. *Psychiatric Services*, 46(4), 359-365. (fee)**

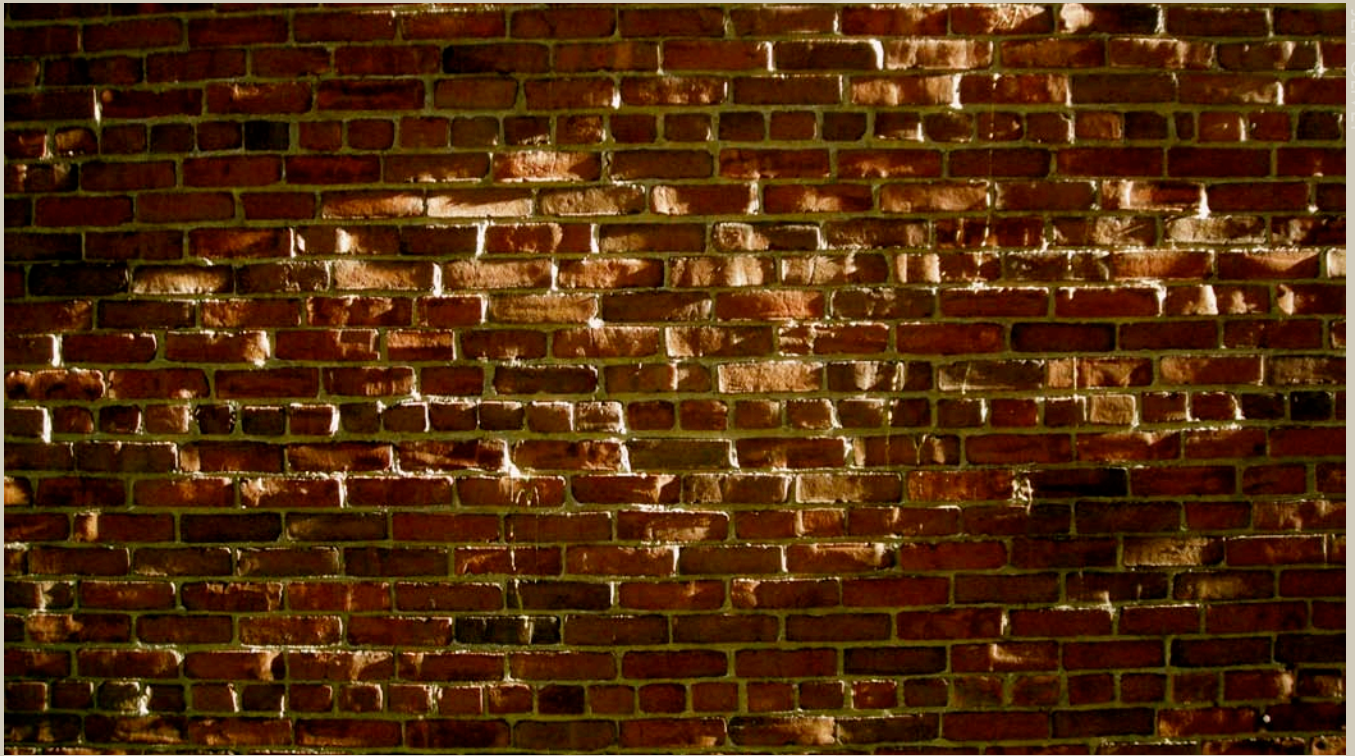
This study examined the relationship of the Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation payments and employment among veterans with psychiatric disorders and veterans whose impairments were nonpsychiatric.

Direct Link: <http://ps.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/abstract/46/4/359>

Homeless Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33035>

HOUSING



JEFF OLIVET

Male veterans who experience homelessness are twice as likely as their non-veteran counterparts to be chronically homeless and nearly 70% struggle with alcohol and drugs (National Housing Conference [NHC], 2006). Initiatives have been made to provide housing assistance, low-barrier housing, affordable housing, supportive housing, and transitional housing for male and female veterans. With these housing opportunities, veterans who are experiencing homelessness receive the opportunity to live more stable, productive lives.

Important Websites

- **Home Loan Guaranty Services**
Information on housing finance for veterans.
Direct Link: <http://www.homeloans.va.gov>
- **Specially Adapted Housing Agents**
A listing of housing agents throughout the country.
Direct Link: <http://homeloans.va.gov/sahagent.htm>

- **VA Grant and Per Diem Program**

This Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program annually funds community agencies that provide services to veterans who experience homelessness. The program aims to promote the development and provision of supportive housing and supportive services. To find a program in your area contact your regional VA [homeless liaison](#).

Direct Link: <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=3>

Direct Link to Regional Homeless Liaison: <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=21>

Direct Link to Grants and Per Diem Press Release: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1527>

- **HUD and VA to Provide Permanent Housing for an Estimated 10,000 Homeless Veterans**

This news release explains how HUD's VA supportive housing program will distribute housing vouchers targeted to assist veterans who experience homelessness. It also explains HUD's plan to work with VA medical centers to provide supportive services and case management to eligible individuals.

Direct Link: <http://www.hud.gov/news/release.cfm?content=pr08-052.cfm>

- **PHA Preference Extended to Veterans**

A recent survey revealed that 36% of Public Housing Authorities sampled offered veterans preference. A forthcoming report will share the actual number of veteran tenants who occupy public housing units or hold a housing choice voucher.

Direct Link: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet/library/PHApref.doc>

Other Resources

- **Corporation for Supportive Housing. (2006). *Guidebook on developing permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans*. Washington, DC: Author.**

This guidebook is geared towards community-based homeless service providers new to housing and introduces and explores the various supportive housing development options available for veterans who experience homelessness.

Direct Link: <http://documents.csh.org/documents/doclib/vetsguidebook.pdf>

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33036>

- **National Housing Conference. (2006). *Ending homelessness among veterans through permanent supportive housing*. Washington, DC: Author.**

This document strives to bring together the broad range of existing expertise and knowledge on providing services and housing options that work for veterans who experience homelessness. It also explores policy and programmatic changes which would further the goal of ending homelessness among veterans.

Direct Link: <http://www.nchv.org/docs/vets%20leadership%20final.pdf>

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33037>

- **Department of Housing and Urban Development, Sub-Committee on Housing and Community Opportunity. (2008). *Homes for Heroes Act of 2007*. Washington, DC: Author.**

The bill for the Homes for Heroes Act of 2007 would establish a \$200 million assistance program for permanent supportive housing and services for low-income veterans, including 20,000 housing vouchers. The legislation also calls for the creation of a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Direct Link:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/speech/financialsvcs_dem/h3329_committee_print_001.xml.pdf

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33038>

- **United States Government Accountability Office. (2006). *Homeless veterans programs: Improved communications and follow-up could further enhance the grant and per diem program*. Washington, DC: Author.**

Developed by the United States Government Accountability Office, this article describes transitional housing with GPD for veterans who experience homelessness.

Direct Link: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06859.pdf>

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33039>

EMPLOYMENT



In order to prevent and alleviate homelessness, programs have been developed to assist veterans in finding and starting employment. Many federal programs assist with job searching, counseling, job placement assistance, remedial education, classroom and on-the-job training, and referral to supportive services. Every state government has an employment services and assistance department that provides information and supportive services to job seekers. In fact, most of these state employment services and assistance departments offer comprehensive job listings, veteran-specific assistance programs, and information about unemployment benefits and training programs. (Cunningham, Henry, & Lyons, 2007)

Important Websites

- **REALifelines Advisor State by State Information**

Visit this page for state by state information about job searching, unemployment benefits, and contact information for the state director for veterans' employment and training (DEVT).

Direct Link: <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/realifelines/selectstate.htm>

- **US Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)**
This website is useful for understanding the technicalities of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Because the rules behind USERRA are confusing, the VETS website has a [series of questions](#) that can help determine eligibility.
Direct Link: <http://www.dol.gov/vets>
Direct Link to Series of Questions: http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/userra/userra_1.asp
- **Veterans Employment Information**
This site contains information for job seeking veterans, veterans currently employed by the Federal Government, and Federal human resources specialists.
Direct Link: <http://www.opm.gov/veterans>
- **Veteran's Preference Advisor**
This webpage helps determine eligibility for veterans' preference and other employment-related benefits.
Direct Link: <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/vetpref/choice.htm>
- **Veteran Specific Job Search and Career Advice Websites**
Veteran Careers: <http://www.military.com/vetcareers>
VeteranEmployment.com: <http://www.veteranemployment.com>
Department of Veterans Affairs: http://www.va.gov/ohrm/job_opportunities.htm
Hire Vets First: <http://www.hirevetsfirst.gov/search.asp>
Vet Jobs: <http://www.vetjobs.com>
TA Online: <http://www.taonline.com/>
Career One Stop: <http://www.careeronestop.org/militarytransition>
- **Skills Translator**
One issue that separating veterans often face is determining how their skill set fits into the civilian workforce. "Skills translators" put military job titles into civilian terms, which is useful in determining qualifications and developing resumes. The following are some examples:
Hire Vets First: <http://www.hirevetsfirst.gov/militaryskills.asp>
Military.com: http://www.military.com/Careers/Content?file=skills_leader.htm&area=Content
Career One Stop: <http://www.acinet.org/acinet/moc/>

Other Resources

- **Rosenheck, R., Frisman, L., & Sindelar, J. (1995). Disability compensation and work among veterans with psychiatric and nonpsychiatric impairments. *Psychiatric Services* 46(4), 359-365.**
This study examined the relationship of the Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation payments and employment among veterans with psychiatric disorders and veterans whose impairments were nonpsychiatric.
Direct Link: <http://ps.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/abstract/46/4/359>
Homeless Resource Center Record: <http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33035>
- **United States Office of Personnel Management. (2007). *The employment of veterans in the federal government*. Washington, DC: Author.**
The Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 report describes Federal agency activity in the employing, hiring, and promoting of veterans in the Federal Government. The report covers departments, agencies, and instrumentalities in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, including the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).
Direct Link: <http://www.opm.gov/employ/veterans/dvaap/2006/DVAAP-FY2006.pdf>
Homelessness Resource Center Record: <http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33040>
- **U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (n.d.). *Homeless veteran employment assistance guide for service providers*. Washington, DC: Author.**
This guide serves as a quick reference resource to assist government agencies, community-based organizations, social workers, case managers and others who are helping veterans who experience homelessness prepare for and obtain employment.
Direct Link: <http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/hvrp/EmploymentAssistanceGuide.pdf>
Homelessness Resource Center Record: <http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=19473>

PERSONAL RECORDS



Personal records are essential in order to rent a place to live, apply for employment, open a bank account, or to request assistance from government agencies and community-based organizations. These essential records include photo IDs, social security cards, birth certificates, and military personnel records and are important to attain when getting back on your feet from homelessness.

Important Websites

- **Birth, Marriage, and Divorce Certificates**

Direct Link: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm>

- **Military Personnel Records**

This website provides forms for military personnel records that can be filled out online but they must be printed and mailed in.

Request Copies of Military Personnel Records:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>

Military Service Records and Official Military Personnel Files:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

- **Photo ID**

Contact your nearest VA medical center for a military ID (1-877-222-8387) or your local Department of Motor Vehicles for a state ID.

Direct Link: <http://www.dmv.org>

- **Social Security Card**

The form for a replacement social security card can be downloaded but it must be printed, filled in, and delivered or mailed to the [nearest social security office](#) with supporting documentation.

Direct Link:

http://ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov/cgi-bin/ssa.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faaid=251

Direct Link to Nearest Social Security Office Search:

<https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/FOLO/fo001.jsp>

Other Resources

- **Torreon, B.S. & Gomez-Granger, J. (2005). Military service records and unit histories: A guide to locating sources. Washington, DC: CRS Report for Congress.**

This report is a guide to locating individual service records and military unit histories from the American Revolution to the present. It provides referral information for locating individual service records of discharged and deceased veterans.

Direct Link: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/secrecy/RS21282.pdf>

Homelessness Resource Center Record:

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33042>

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER



More than 25% of veterans who served in Vietnam and experience homelessness have symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and for those who also experience serious mental illness, the percentage increases to 43% (McMurray-Avila, 2001). PTSD may occur after a person has been exposed to a traumatic event in which the person experienced or witnessed events that involved death, serious injury, or mass destruction. For veterans, stressful traumatic events include combat, training accidents, disasters, medical emergencies, and assaults. According to the American Legion website, common symptoms of PTSD include flashbacks, anger and rage, and feelings of helplessness and hopelessness. Recognizing the symptoms of trauma and identifying resources for the treatment of trauma-related disorders can be critical in assisting veterans from any war or branch of service.

Important Websites

- **PTSD 101 – Department of Veterans Affairs**

This website focuses on issues related to combat stress and PTSD. It provides helpful links for those professionals who provide services to individuals who have experienced trauma.

Direct Link: <http://www.iraqwarveterans.org/ptsd.htm>

- **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Symptoms**
This website gives information of specific symptoms of PTSD.
Direct Link: <http://psychcentral.com/disorders/sx32.htm>
- **National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (NCPTSD)**
This website aims to advance the clinical care and social welfare of U.S. Veterans through research, education, and training on PTSD and stress-related disorders.
Direct Link: <http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/index.jsp>
- **American Legion – Posttraumatic Stress Disorder**
The website provides general information about posttraumatic stress disorder.
Direct Link: <http://www.legion.org/veterans/affairs/ptsd>

Other Resources

- **Mulligan, K. (2005). VA may be unable to meet PTSD treatment needs. *Psychiatric News* 40(6), 7.**
This article reviews the current need to increase services to veterans with PTSD. Although the VA is able to keep up with the current number of veterans seeking PTSD services, it may not be able to meet the anticipated increase in demand for these services.
Direct Link: <http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/40/6/7>
Homelessness Resource Center Record:
<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33173>
- **Parrish, B. (2008). *Military veterans PTSD reference manual*. Bryn Mawr, PA: Infinity Publishing.**
This manual provides information for how to understand the effects of PTSD in veterans.
Direct link: <http://www.ptsdmanual.com>
Homelessness Resource Center Record:
<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33043>
- **United States Government Accountability Office. (2006). *Post-traumatic stress disorder: DOD needs to identify the factors its providers use to make mental health evaluation referrals for service members*. Washington, DC: Author.**
This report to Congressional Committees discusses ways of identifying PTSD in veterans as well as different health-care benefits.
Direct Link: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06397.pdf>
Homelessness Resource Center Record:
<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Resource/View.aspx?id=33044>

RECENT LEGISLATION



Bills for veterans are constantly being addressed by Congress. Both new and old bills are reviewed. It is important to stay up-to-date with the latest legislation concerning veterans to ensure that your client is receiving the proper benefits.

Important Websites

- **VA Congressional and Legislative Affairs**
Information about legislation significant to veterans is found here.
Direct Link: http://www.va.gov/oca/Vet_Legis.asp
- **National Association of State Veterans Homes**
This site contains information about legislative issues and recent legislation.
Direct Link: http://www.nasvh.org/leg_issues/leg_recent.cfm

We will continue to build on this resource page and welcome your input!

Contact the PATH TA Center at path@samhsa.hhs.gov (with “PATH Veterans Resources” in the subject line) to comment, submit a question, contribute a tool, or suggest materials to be added.

A decorative graphic consisting of a cluster of orange dots of varying sizes, arranged in a shape that resembles a stylized bird or a flame, positioned to the left of the word "PATH".

PATH

Projects for Assistance in
Transition from Homelessness